



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
PROGRAM PLANNING AND INTEGRATION
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910

Dear Reviewer:

In accordance with provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), we enclose for your review the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies Fishery Management Plan (FMP).

This DEIS is prepared pursuant to NEPA to assess the environmental impacts associated with NOAA proceeding with Amendment 18. The Amendment 18 DEIS provides a range of alternatives to address the following issues:

- Accumulation limits for Northeast multispecies permit holders;
- A sub-allocation and other management measures for Handgear A permit holders;
- Data confidentiality with regards to leasing of groundfish allocations;
- An inshore/offshore boundary within the Gulf of Maine and potential associated management measures for Gulf of Maine cod; and,
- Establishing a Redfish Exemption Area where vessels could better target redfish.

Additional copies of the DEIS may be obtained from the responsible program official identified below. The document is also accessible electronically through NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service's Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office website at <http://www.greateratlantic.fisheries.noaa.gov/>.

Written comments should be submitted through mail, facsimile (fax), or email to the responsible program official identified below. Written comments submitted during the Agency's 45-day public comment period must be received by **August 31, 2015**. When submitting fax or email comments, include the following document identifier in the comment subject line: Comments on the DEIS for Amendment 18 to the Northeast Multispecies FMP.

Responsible Program Official:

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Sincerely,

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Enclosed



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